

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Issued by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and
the Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Dent Island Lightstation Heritage Management Plan

Subsection 341S (1) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) requires a Commonwealth Agency –in this case the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA)– to make a written plan to protect and manage the Commonwealth Heritage values of a Commonwealth Heritage place it owns or controls.

The Dent Island Lightstation Heritage Management Plan (the Plan) provides for the future management of the Dent Island Lightstation (the Lightstation) by GBRMPA and AMSA, with the objective of identifying, protecting, conserving, presenting and transmitting the Commonwealth Heritage values of the place. The Plan contains a detailed description of the history and cultural significance of the Lightstation, as well as its physical elements and condition. Importantly, the Plan sets out the operational requirements for the management of the Lightstation, heritage management policies that guide the management and protection of the Commonwealth heritage values of the Lightstation and plans for GBRMPA and AMSA to implement such operational requirements and policies.

Background

The Dent Island Lightstation is located on the western side of Dent Island, which is situated in the Whitsunday region of the Great Barrier Reef approximately 18 kilometres south-east of Shute Harbour. The Plan applies to the lighthouse, which is owned and operated by AMSA, and to the surrounding land and lightstation structures, which are owned by the GBRMPA and are leased to a private Lessee. The land surrounding the lighthouse contains two houses, an engine room, winch house, derrick crane, landing platform, boat platform and access ladder, workshop/store/radio room, tramline, trolley and cables, metal water tank and stand, paths, stairs, graves and fowl house.

The Lightstation was established in 1879. It embodies important and evocative evidence of the historical development of aids to navigation along the Queensland coast and the history of lighthouse technology, accommodation and associated services. First lit in 1879, the lighthouse is significant as a light tower built in response to the dramatic expansion of regular coastal shipping along the inner route of the Great Barrier Reef, following the economic development of Northern Queensland. It is also an important manifestation of the colonial government's policy of investing in infrastructure, such as railways and lighthouses, to encourage the expansion of economic activity. The Lightstation complex dating from 1879 to 1960, are significant as a complete intact example of a Lightstation complex in Queensland. Later stages of

development have integrated with the original fabric and detail of the Lightstation, contributing to the continuum of a complex dedicated to the single aim of maintaining the aid to navigation.

The place was included on the Commonwealth Heritage List in 2004 for its cultural significance. This listing recognises the cultural values of the place, which relate to processes and characteristic values.

Structure and content of the Plan

The Plan has been prepared in a manner which is consistent with the Commonwealth Heritage management principles in Schedule 7B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Regulations 2000* (EPBC Regulations) and meets the requirements for management plans for Commonwealth Heritage places in Schedule 7A of the EPBC Regulations. The Plan follows a sequence from description to analysis of operational requirements to implementation:

- Introduction
- Heritage Management Plan objectives
- A brief history of Dent Island Lightstation
- Dent Island
- Cultural significance
- The fabric of the lightstation
- Operational requirements
- Heritage management policies
- Implementation plan

Consultation

Consistent with the requirements of paragraph 341S (6) (b) the EPBC Act, on 5 March 2013 notices of the draft Plan were published in the Australian newspaper and on the GBRMPA's public website. The notices:

- Included a statement that the GBRMPA and AMSA had jointly prepared a draft Heritage Management Plan;
- Stated that copies of the draft Plan could be obtained from the GBRMPA's website or by telephoning the GBRMPA or AMSA;
- Invited comments on the draft Plan from members of the public and indigenous people with rights and interests in the place;
- Specified the address to which comments could be sent; and

- Specified that comments could be sent until 5:00 pm on 3 April 2013.

No comments were received in response to the notices that were published.

In accordance with paragraph 341S (6) (a) of the EPBC Act, the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (the Minister) was asked for advice on the proposed Plan. On 14 June 2013, the Minister's delegate confirmed that the Plan complied with the requirements of the EPBC Act and the Commonwealth Heritage management principles.

The Plan was approved by the GMRMPA on 17 September 2013 and approved by AMSA on 9 December 2013.

The Plan is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003*.

The Plan will commence on the day after it is registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights

(Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*).

The Plan is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

The Plan does not engage any of the applicable rights or freedoms.

The Plan is compatible with human rights as it does not raise any human rights issues.